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Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 3 July 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 27 June 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions regarding its report on the requests for exception under Article 19 from Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Jan **Kavan**

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Annex

Letter dated 27 June 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that the Committee on Contributions shall advise the Assembly with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations. I also have the honour to refer to requests for exemption under Article 19 from Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan, which you and the Acting President transmitted to me for appropriate action by the Committee.

In connection with those requests, the Committee has asked me to transmit to the General Assembly without delay the section of its report on its sixty-third session dealing with those questions so as to facilitate early action by the Assembly. This is attached (see appendix).

(*Signed*) Ugo **Sessi**
Chairman
Committee on Contributions

Appendix

Sections of the report of the Committee on Contributions on its sixty-third session regarding requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter*

Application of Article 19 of the Charter

59. The Committee recalled its general mandate, under rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to advise the General Assembly on the action to be taken with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter. It also recalled the Assembly's decisions in its resolution 54/237 C concerning procedures for consideration of requests for exemption under Article 19 and the results of its recent review of that subject.

Requests for exemption under Article 19

60. The Committee recalled that, in its resolution 54/237 C, the General Assembly, inter alia, had urged all Member States in arrears requesting exemption under Article 19 to provide the fullest possible supporting information, including information on economic aggregates, government revenues and expenditure, foreign exchange resources, indebtedness, difficulties in meeting domestic or international financial obligations and any other information that might support the claim that failure to make necessary payments had been attributable to conditions beyond the control of the Member States. The Assembly also decided that requests for exemption under Article 19 must be submitted by Member States to the President of the General Assembly at least two weeks before the session of the Committee so as to ensure a complete review of the requests.

61. The Committee noted that, on the basis of the latter provision, requests for exemption under Article 19 should have been received by the President of the General Assembly by 19 May 2003 for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-third session. It also noted that an announcement to that effect was included in the *Journal of the United Nations* from 3 February to 19 May 2003. Nine requests for exemption under Article 19 were received by the time specified in the resolution and one subsequently. This compares with seven received in 2002 within the time frame specified, 3 in 2001, 7 in 2000 and 11 in 1999.

62. The Committee noted that four of the Member States requesting exemption under Article 19 had presented multi-year payment plans for the payment of their arrears. **It encouraged all Member States requesting an exemption under Article 19 to consider presenting a payment plan if they are in a position to do so, taking into account the recommendations in paragraphs 17 to 23 of its report on its sixty-second session,[1] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/4 B.**

63. In considering the requests presented within the time frame specified by the General Assembly, the Committee had before it information provided by the nine Member States concerned and the Secretariat. It also met with representatives of the Member States and of relevant units of the Secretariat.

* The full report of the Committee will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/58/11).

64. The Committee noted that the nature and quality of the information provided by Member States requesting exemptions under Article 19 varied significantly. **In this context, the Committee recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/237 C and urged all Member States requesting exemptions under Article 19 to submit as much information as possible in support of their requests. It also requested the Secretariat to continue to provide as much additional information as possible on the situation of those Member States.**

65. **In order to facilitate early action on these requests for exemption under Article 19 and in accordance with its past practice, the Committee authorized its Chairman to convey to the General Assembly without delay the related section of its report.**

1. Burundi

66. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 6 May 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 5 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by a representative of Burundi.

67. In its written and oral representations, Burundi made reference to its inability to pay its arrears to the United Nations as a result of the country's appalling socio-economic situation caused by the war, which had been raging there since 1993. While there had been some progress on the political front, ceasefire agreements had not been fully implemented. The war had devastated Burundi's economy and Burundi is now one of the world's poorest countries. Economic developments had had a negative impact on government revenues. External debt had grown and foreign assistance was much less than needed. In the circumstances, Burundi was not able to meet a number of its obligations, including its assessed contributions to the United Nations, but it hoped to be able to do so when its situation improved.

68. The Committee noted that the security situation in Burundi remained precarious, with inevitable consequences for the country's economic and social situation. In that connection, it was advised that there were approximately 290,000 displaced persons and markets and economic activity had been seriously disrupted. In addition, Burundi was affected by negative trends in the market for coffee, a major export, and foreign assistance was limited by security as well as financial factors. The Committee also noted a steep fall in Burundi's foreign exchange reserves and increase in external debt.

69. The Committee noted Burundi's relatively good payment record to the United Nations until 2002, with arrears being reduced each year between 1998 and 2001. In the light of that record and the relatively small minimum payment of $58,000 required for Burundi to avoid the application of Article 19, some members expressed doubts as to whether its failure to make that payment was really due to conditions beyond its control. Other members emphasized the severe crisis facing Burundi, including its increasing external debt and falling foreign exchange reserves.

70. **On balance, the Committee concluded that the failure of Burundi to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was**

due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that Burundi be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.

2. Central African Republic

71. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 17 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic.

72. In its written and oral representations, the Central African Republic pointed to its severe economic and social problems, stemming in part from earlier internal conflicts and continuing security problems. The repeated crises have also hampered the mobilization of humanitarian and development assistance. In that context, it has not proved possible to agree on formal cooperation programmes with the Bretton Woods institutions or to benefit from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC). These problems hindered the Government's efforts to tackle poverty, public health problems and corruption and mismanagement.

73. The Government understood its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations but was currently unable to pay the minimum amount necessary to restore its vote in the General Assembly. Indeed, it had arrears outstanding for salaries, pensions and scholarships. It hoped that an improvement in the situation would permit payments in future and planned to submit at a later date a schedule for the payment of its contributions in arrears.

74. The Committee noted that the Central African Republic was coping with a post-conflict situation, which complicated its efforts to tackle its serious economic and social problems. While there were some hopeful signs of a political and economic transition, continuing security problems hampered the delivery of what aid was available.

75. **The Committee welcomed the intention of the Central African Republic to submit a schedule for the payment of its arrears. It noted, however, that apart from a payment of $513,567 in 1998, the Central African Republic had made no payments since 1994.**

76. **Based on the information provided, the Committee concluded that the failure of the Central African Republic to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that the Central African Republic be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004. The Committee also noted the substantial reduction of the Central African Republic's rate of assessment from 1998 and urged it to make some payments in future so as to reduce, or at least avoid an increase of, its arrears.**

3. Comoros

77. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 17 May 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires

a.i. of the Comoros to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by a representative of the Comoros.

78. In its written and oral representations, the Comoros recalled that an agreement had been reached at Fomboni on a peace process to resolve its five-year separatist and political crisis and that a new constitution had been adopted by referendum in December 2001. Under that constitution, elections were held for the presidency of the Union of the Comoros and of the three islands making up the Comoros. Since then, however, the new presidents had failed to agree on the sharing of power. That had created an impasse in the further implementation of the peace process, particularly in establishing the legislative assembly. As a result, there has been no budget approved for 2003. Due to this conflict of competence and the Comoros' economic difficulties, the Comoros has not been able to pay its assessed contributions to the United Nations. For the same reason, it was not possible for the Comoros to propose a multi-year payment plan at this stage.

79. The Committee noted that, despite efforts at reconciliation by a number of parties, including the African Union and the Francophonie, the Comoros faced a new political and institutional crisis. This undermined its efforts to tackle its economic and social problems, including high rates of poverty and illiteracy. It also discouraged foreign assistance, and the Comoros had no World Bank or IMF programmes in place. Nor did it benefit from HIPC.

80. The Committee recalled that the Comoros had requested and been granted exemptions under Article 19 since 1996. It noted that, since 1993, the Comoros had made payments towards assessed contributions only in 1996 and 2001.

81. Some members felt that the situation of the Comoros clearly justified the granting of an exemption under Article 19. Its economic and social problems and its constitutional and budgetary crises meant that it was clearly unable to pay the minimum amount required to restore their vote in the General Assembly under the provisions of Article 19. Other members did not agree.

82. **On balance, the Committee concluded that the failure of the Comoros to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that the Comoros be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004. At the same time, the Committee urged the Comoros to pay particular attention to its arrears to the United Nations and to make an additional effort to make some payments of its assessed contributions so as to reduce, or at least avoid a further increase of, its arrears. The Committee agreed to review any future requests from the Comoros in the light of its payment record.**

83. A number of members expressed reservations about this decision. They were of the view that the problems faced by the Comoros were less severe than those faced by other Member States and were the result of a long-term crisis of governance, rather than natural disasters or war. They recalled that the Comoros had requested an exemption under Article 19 every year since 1996 but made payments only twice — in 1996, after their first request for an exemption, and in 2001, the year after the Committee on Contributions recommended against an exemption. It had also failed to follow up on earlier indications that it was considering the submission of a multi-year payment plan. They questioned repeated exemptions

under Article 19 for the Comoros with so little evidence of a commitment on the part of the Member State to meeting its financial obligations to the United Nations.

4. Democratic Republic of the Congo

84. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 16 June 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 13 June 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations, in which she requested an exemption for the Democratic Republic of the Congo under Article 19 of the Charter.

85. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/237 C, decided that requests for exemption under Article 19 must be submitted by Member States to the President of the General Assembly at least two weeks before the Committee's session so as to ensure a complete review of the requests. **As the letter from the Chargé d'affaires had been received two weeks after the beginning of its session, the Committee decided that it could take no action on the request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

5. Georgia

86. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations transmitting a letter dated 17 May 2003 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by the Permanent Representative of Georgia.

87. In its written and oral representations, Georgia referred to the continuing and serious impact on its economy and government budget of assisting refugees and internally displaced persons from conflict zones in Abkhazia and Iskhinvali. It also indicated that, in the context of the global anti-terrorist campaign, it had had to make increased provision for additional security measures to protect and fortify the Chechen section of its border with the Russian Federation. Reference was also made to the serious consequences of an earthquake that had struck the capital, Tbilisi, in April 2002. Georgia remained committed to meeting its obligations to the United Nations and it recalled that it had paid almost $7.8 million since 1996. In that context, Georgia submitted a revised schedule to reduce its arrears over 10 years from 2004, details of which are provided above in chapter IV of the Committee's report.

88. The Committee noted that, despite efforts by the United Nations and other parties, Georgia still faced serious security and economic problems stemming from the situation in Abkhazia, to which there was still no solution. Although there has been some improvement in the Georgian economy in recent years, it still faced serious problems, with heavy external debt and real unemployment higher than the official figure of 12 per cent. This was in addition to the continuing need to provide for refugees and internally displaced persons.

89. Some members considered that Georgia's arrears were a result of an unrealistically high initial rate of assessment and the operation of the scheme of

limits in earlier years. They noted that Georgia had paid over $7.7 million since 1996 and had reduced its arrears by over $3.5 million since the end of 1995. Given its continuing problems, Georgia was not in a position to make the necessary minimum payment of almost $6.8 million needed to restore its vote in the General Assembly under the provisions of Article 19 and should be granted an exemption. Other members expressed doubts.

90. **The Committee noted with concern Georgia's failure to meet the terms of the multi-year payment plan submitted only last year, the third in as many years. The Committee recalled its recommendation, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly, that payment plans should provide for payment each year of the Member State's current year assessments and a part of its arrears and that, where possible, the plans should generally provide for elimination of a Member State's arrears within a period of up to six years. In that context, the Committee noted with concern that Georgia's new payment plan made no provision for any payments in 2003 and that the plan went well beyond the recommended six-year period.**

91. **On balance, the Committee nevertheless concluded that the failure of Georgia to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that Georgia be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.**

92. A number of members expressed reservations about this decision. They recalled that, while the Committee had recommended that there should be no automatic link between multi-year payment plans and other measures, it had also recommended that, for those Member States that are in a position to submit a payment plan, the Committee and the General Assembly should take the submission of a plan and its status of implementation into account as one factor when they consider requests for exemption under Article 19. In that context, they also recalled that Georgia had failed to meet the terms of three successive payment plans and that the revised plan now submitted did not envisage any payments in 2003. While recognizing the problems faced by Georgia, they noted some signs of improvement in its economic situation. In that context, they doubted that Georgia's failure to make the necessary payment under Article 19, still less its failure to meet its obligations under three previous payment plans, were due to conditions beyond its control.

6. Guinea-Bissau

93. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 8 May 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a note verbale dated 25 April 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau.

94. In her representation, the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau recalled that her country had suffered an armed conflict in 1998-1999 that had seriously affected its economy and infrastructure. The Government had not been able to meet IMF-mandated targets and therefore was currently not receiving assistance from the Bretton Woods institutions. The economic situation of Guinea-Bissau was very serious and the Government had been unable to pay salaries of civil servants for

quite some time. Financial constraints were also hampering progress in organizing new elections. Guinea-Bissau's failure to pay its assessed contributions to the United Nations should be seen in the light of these circumstances and there were outstanding arrears to other organizations, including the African Union. In view of its situation and the anticipated elections, it was currently not possible for Guinea-Bissau to consider the submission of a multi-year payment plan for the elimination of its arrears to the United Nations.

95. The Committee noted that Guinea-Bissau was currently facing crises in the political, economic and social spheres. There had been frequent government changes in the past year, which complicated the process of national reconciliation and securing external assistance. Despite the efforts of a number of interested parties, including the United Nations, through its Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the political situation remained difficult. Legislative elections were a prerequisite for tackling outstanding constitutional and political issues and these were hampered by financial constraints. The political situation was unhelpful in securing external assistance, which had accounted for approximately half of the national budget. Having failed to meet specified targets, Guinea-Bissau was not currently receiving assistance from the Bretton Woods institutions.

96. The economic and social situation of Guinea-Bissau was extremely difficult, with no reliable electricity or water supply. In addition to the adverse economic impact of the Government's arrears of payment of salaries, export prices for cashews, Guinea-Bissau's main crop, had fallen and revenue from fishing licences was not showing significant growth.

97. **The Committee concluded that the failure of Guinea-Bissau to pay the minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that Guinea-Bissau be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.**

7. Republic of Moldova

98. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 16 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova.

99. In its written and oral representations, the Republic of Moldova recalled that its arrears mainly resulted from the inequitable redistribution of the assessment of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In the subsequent transition over the last decade, the real economic output of the Republic of Moldova fell by over 50 per cent and external debt grew from virtually zero to over $1.6 billion at the end of 2002, or slightly more than its GDP. The Moldovan economy was also hit hard by the regional economic crisis of the late 1990s. Already a low-income country, the Republic of Moldova is also very vulnerable to external shocks and climatic conditions, being completely dependent on imported energy and heavily dependent on agricultural exports. In that context, agricultural output had been hard hit by a severe winter in 2002-2003 and spring frosts in 2003. The unresolved conflict in the

separatist eastern region, where 45 per cent of the country's industrial potential is concentrated, continues to hamper economic recovery and growth, disrupt trade, promote smuggling and discourage foreign investment. Despite these serious problems, the Republic of Moldova remained committed to paying its assessed contributions to the United Nations in full, on time and without imposing conditions, when circumstances permit. In the meantime, it would continue to make payments in accordance with the multi-year payment plan submitted in 2001.

100. The Committee noted that, despite outside efforts at mediation, the separatist problem in the Trans-Dneister region remained a serious problem for the Republic of Moldova. In the absence of government control of the region, there were serious problems of corruption, transportation of illegal drugs and other criminal activities. Lending to the Republic of Moldova on commercial terms early in its existence as an independent State led to serious debt problems. The authorities are trying to negotiate a solution with the international financial institutions. Despite some recent economic improvements, poverty remains a serious problem and many of the country's economically active citizens have emigrated because of a lack of economic opportunities.

101. **The Committee noted with appreciation that the Republic of Moldova had substantially met its payment plan in 2001-2002 and had already paid more than half the amount scheduled for 2003. This was done despite the serious and continuing difficulties that it faced.**

102. **Based on its review, the Committee concluded that the failure of the Republic of Moldova to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that the Republic of Moldova be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.**

8. Sao Tome and Principe

103. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 6 May 2003 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 2 May 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by a representative of Sao Tome and Principe.

104. In its written and oral representations, Sao Tome and Principe recalled that it had been one of the Member States most adversely affected by the previous floor rate of 0.01 per cent for the United Nations scale of assessments. The population of Sao Tome and Principe suffered from great poverty and rising unemployment. The economy was currently dependent on only a few commodities and, with a population of only 152,000, the country owed approximately $239 million. While Sao Tome and Principe had reached a joint development zone agreement with Nigeria and an oil exploration contract had been signed, there would be no revenue for some time, even if results were good. In the meantime, Sao Tome and Principe would continue to honour the payment plan that it had submitted last year.

105. The Committee recalled that Sao Tome and Principe had been the Member State most negatively affected by the earlier scale floor of 0.01 per cent. The Committee noted that, despite some recent improvement in the country's economy,

poverty remained a serious problem, with serious health problems, including malaria, and many people not having access to safe drinking water. Oil might well improve the country's economic position in future, but disputes between the President and the legislature might complicate related negotiations. In the meantime, there had been some improvement due to higher cocoa prices and contacts were proceeding with IMF. Sao Tome and Principe is eligible for HIPC status.

106. **The Committee noted that Sao Tome and Principe had submitted a multi-year payment plan in 2002 and made the related payment for that year. It welcomed the stated commitment of Sao Tome and Principe to continue to honour the plan, despite the severe economic problems facing the country.**

107. **The Committee concluded that the failure of Sao Tome and Principe to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that Sao Tome and Principe be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.**

9. Somalia

108. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 15 May 2003 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 15 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by the Permanent Representative of Somalia.

109. In its written and oral representations, Somalia recalled the 11-year civil war that had devastated the country. While efforts at national reconciliation were continuing with the assistance of international and regional organizations, including the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), sporadic fighting continued. In addition, Somalia had been badly affected by drought, a ban on livestock exports in its traditional markets in the Gulf, the freezing of the assets of El-Barakat, the country's major banking institution, following the events of 11 September 2001 and inadequate levels of foreign assistance. Significant progress had been made at the National Reconciliation Conference in Kenya but it was not clear when it would finish its work. While there was little hope that El-Barakat would be reopened, it was hoped that some of its assets could be unfrozen eventually. Livestock exports had been hit by the war's impact on the country's infrastructure, including the institutions needed to provide health certification for those exports, and external assistance was being sought. In view of the severity of its problems, Somalia was unable to pay its assessed contributions to the United Nations.

110. The Committee noted that the national reconciliation process in Somalia did not include all parties, notably it did not include the northern region, known as Somaliland, that had held a referendum on independence. Assistance to the process was being provided by a number of organizations, including IGAD, the European Union and the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General's representative was closely involved. Notwithstanding these efforts, fighting and loss of life continued. The Transitional National Government, established following the Djibouti Conference in 2000, controlled only part of Mogadishu and its mandate runs only to August 2003. Efforts were under way to tackle some of Somalia's other problems,

including the livestock export and remittance issues but the country's problems remained daunting.

111. **Based on the information considered, the Committee concluded that the failure of Somalia to pay the minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that Somalia be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.**

10. Tajikistan

112. The Committee had before it the text of a letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, transmitting a letter dated 16 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations transmitting a letter dated 13 May 2003 from the Prime Minister of Tajikistan addressed to the President of the General Assembly. It also heard an oral representation by the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan.

113. In its written and oral representations, Tajikistan made reference to the adverse consequences of earthquakes and floods affecting the country in the past year. These included damage to agriculture and housing. Tajikistan was also obliged to devote a significant part of its limited resources to security provisions, in the light of the situation in Afghanistan, in particular, from which large volumes of illegal drugs were being smuggled. Although there had been some economic improvement in 2001-2002, the country now owed more than $1 billion. As a result, the debt-service burden exceeded 30 per cent of the Government's revenues in the past two years. Tajikistan was trying to reach agreement with external creditors to alleviate this problem. In the meantime, however, it remained committed to honouring its payment plan in order to eliminate its arrears of assessed contributions to the United Nations.

114. The Committee noted that, despite some growth in 2001-2002, Tajikistan's economic level in 2002 was only 43 per cent of that in 1991. In the meantime, population growth was high and there was massive unemployment. A landlocked country, Tajikistan also suffered from the effects of regional instability and had earlier been through a civil war. In addition, the country was disaster-prone due in part to its mountainous topography and regularly suffered from droughts, floods and landslides. Due to its general poverty and the Government's limited resources, it was not well equipped to deal with these emergencies and had been the subject of a number of humanitarian appeals.

115. **The Committee noted with appreciation that, despite its serious problems, Tajikistan had more than met the payments scheduled for 2000-2003 in the plan that it had submitted in 2000.**

116. **Based on the information considered, the Committee concluded that the failure of Tajikistan to pay the minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond its control. It therefore recommended that Tajikistan be permitted to vote until 30 June 2004.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/57/11).